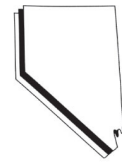




NRCS STRATEGIC PLAN

KEY POINTS

**Vision: Productive Lands – Healthy Environment**

The foundation of this strategic plan is a vision of the landscape that Americans want—a landscape in which a productive agricultural sector and a high quality environment are achieved.

Mission: Helping People Help the Land

We provide products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on private land.

Overarching Strategies: Broad strategies, consistent with our guiding principles of Service, Partnership, and Technical Excellence.

Cooperative Conservation – We will seek and promote cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals.

Watershed Approach – We will enhance information and assistance to enable locally led watershed scale conservation.

Market-Based Approach – We will aid the growth of market-based opportunities that promote conservation on private lands.

Foundation Goal	Outcome	Objective
High Quality, Productive Soils	Soil Quality. The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy and abundant food supply.	In 2010, farmers will manage 70 percent of cropland under systems that maintain or improve soil condition and increase soil carbon.
Clean And Abundant Water	Water Quality. The quality of surface waters and groundwater is restored and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape. Water Management. Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.	Between 2006 and 2010, reduce potential sediment delivery from agricultural operations by 70 million tons. Between 2006 and 2010, reduce potential delivery of nitrogen from agricultural operations by 375,000 tons. Between 2006 and 2010, reduce potential delivery of phosphorus from agricultural operations by 70,000 tons. By 2010, conserve 8 million acre-feet of water.
Healthy Plant And Animal Communities	Range and Forest Ecosystems. Grassland, range and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient. Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities. Wetlands. Wetlands protect water quality, reduce flood damage, and provide habitat for wildlife.	Between 2006 and 2010, ranchers will apply management that will maintain or improve vegetative condition over the long term on 121 million acres of rangeland in minimal or degrading vegetative condition. Between 2006 and 2010, an additional 9 million acres of essential habitat will be improved and managed to benefit at-risk and declining species. By 2010, resource managers will create, restore or enhance 1.5 million acres of wetlands.

Venture Goal	Outcome	Objective
Clean Air	Agriculture makes a positive contribution to local air quality and the Nation's efforts to sequester carbon.	The objective will be measured by tons of carbon sequestered.
An Adequate Energy Supply	Agricultural activities conserve energy and agricultural lands are a source of environmentally sustainable biofuels.	The objective will be measured by BTUs conserved.
Working Farm and Ranch Lands Preservation	Connected landscapes sustain a viable agriculture and natural environment.	By 2010, 70 percent of farms and ranches protected under easements will remain in active agriculture.

Management Initiatives and Goals

Ensuring Civil Rights	Establish an equal opportunity standard for excellence through a highly skilled workforce that is diverse at all levels and ensures a commitment of equal access to NRCS programs and services.	The agency workforce will closely resemble the diversity of the nation's labor force. Strive for parity in service delivery.
Improving Internal Management	Manage our human capital strategically to ensure the right skills in the right locations to deliver high-quality products and services. Make effective use of Internet-based technology to provide customer-focused service.	

Business Lines

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to land owners and managers through **five business lines**, which are groups of similar products and services, that support and advance natural resource conservation:

- ✓ **Conservation planning and technical consultation** NRCS provides data, information, or technical expertise to identify natural resource problems and opportunities, clarify their objectives, and formulate and evaluate alternatives.
- ✓ **Conservation implementation** NRCS helps customers install conservation practices and systems that meet established technical standards and specifications.
- ✓ **Natural resource inventory and assessment** NRCS acquires, develops, analyzes, interprets, and delivers natural resource data and information to enable knowledge-based natural resource planning and decision making at all landscape scales.
- ✓ **Natural resource technology transfer** NRCS develops, documents, and distributes a wide array of technology pertaining to resource assessment, conservation planning and conservation system installation and evaluation.
- ✓ **Financial assistance** NRCS provides financial assistance to encourage the adoption conservation practices proven to provide significant public benefits.